

Remarks

Claims 108 and 109 are canceled. Claims 1, 4-13, 101 and 103-106 are now pending.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1, 4-13, 101 and 103-104.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

The rejection of claim 105 as failing to comply with the written description requirement is respectfully traversed.

As clearly stated in the specification at page 32, line 29 through page 33, line 1, the ability of outside air to enter via the air admission duct 45 is dependent upon whether the water level in the regulation chamber 33 is situated beneath the air admission duct. When the low end of the air admission duct is below the water level, such as when the water level is at its high level, outside air is prevented from entering, but when the low end of the air admission duct is above the water level, such as when the water level is at its low level, air can enter. Varying the water level in the regulation chamber provides humidity control by controlling whether outside air can enter. Accordingly, the language of claim 105 as previously presented is entirely consistent with the specification. Moreover, claim 105 is amended above to specifically recite the fact that the low end of the air admission duct is above the water level when the water level is at the low level so that air can enter the air admission duct (as per prior dependent claim 109). Again, it is this closing off and opening of the low end of the air admission duct, via variance of the water level in the regulation chamber, that enables humidity control. Accordingly, the 112 rejection of claim 105 should be withdrawn.

Claim 105 has also been amended to incorporate the limitation of prior dependent claim 108, which was identified as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the 112 rejection of claim 105 having been addressed above, claim 105 is now in allowable condition, and dependent claim 106 is also allowable.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required (including the fee for any extension of time), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct No.: 20-0809.

The examiner may contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Nieberding", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Nieberding
Reg. No. 39,316

THOMPSON HINE LLP
2000 Courthouse Plaza NE
10 West Second Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-1758
Telephone (937) 443-6892
Facsimile: (937) 443-6635